Part 408 for Cathy's blog

Monday 9th November, 2026.

Today is Cambodia's Independence Day.

My Fitbit has died. I will miss not being able to check the time.

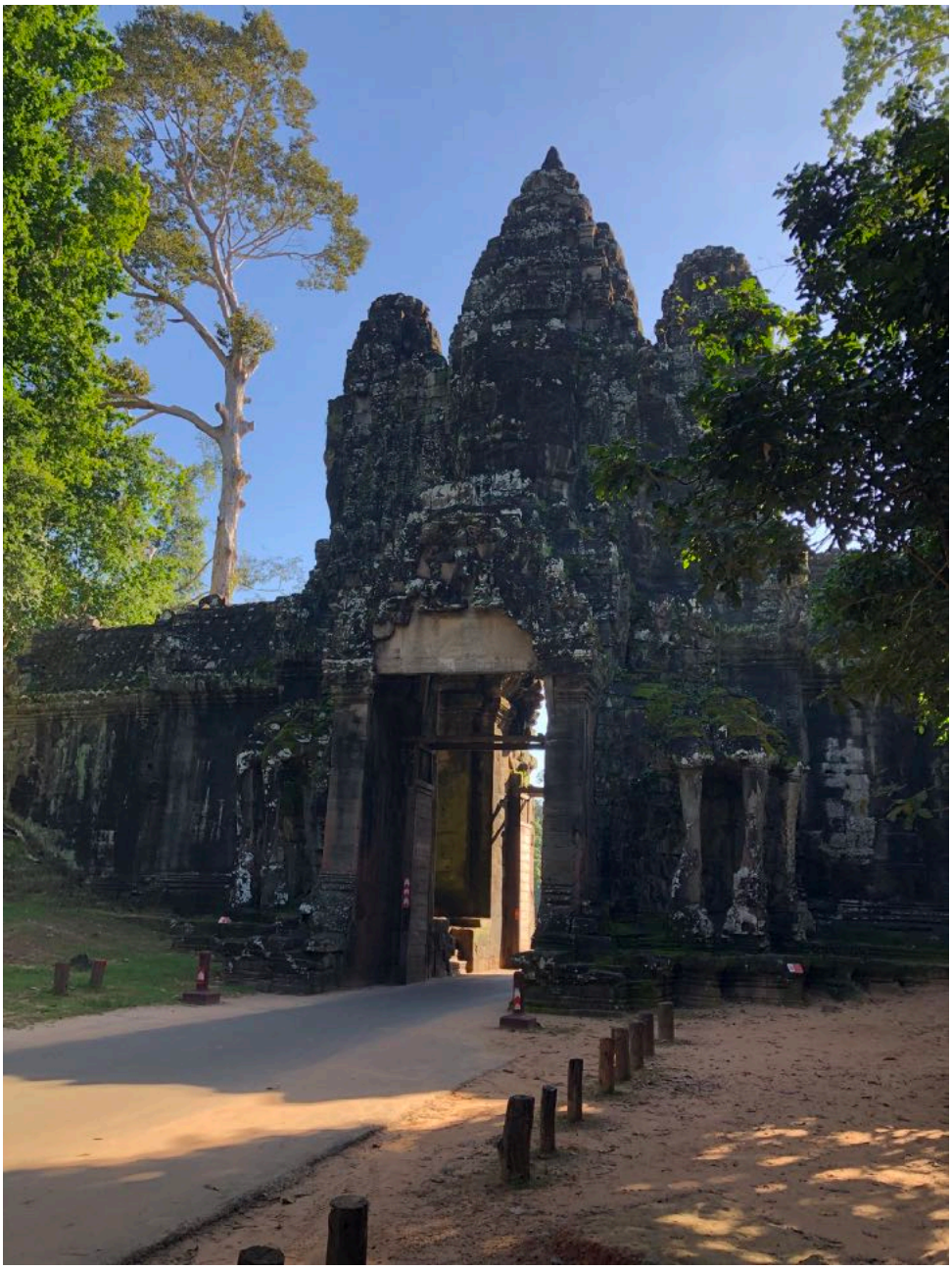
Wall Walk : Gate of the Dead to Prasat Chrung NE



The Gate of the Dead. (Above) You cannot take cars through this gate.



A spikey bottomed spider, building its web, up on the wall.



This is the Victory Gate. It is the access (and egress) gate in the East wall around Angkor Thom.

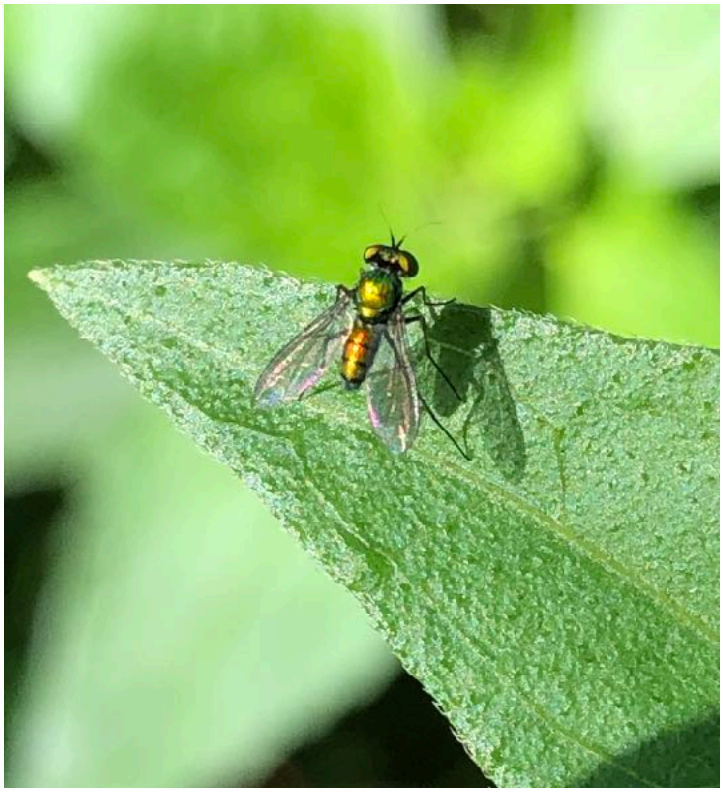


A Saint Andrew’s Cross spider.



This is another Nephilia spider. Look at the markings on her back.

Some flies.







Prasat Chrung NE.

It takes about two hours to walk from the Gate to the corner and back, especially when we stop often to look at and photograph insects. Add another hour (two times 30 minutes) travelling time, and that is our morning. We get home any time after 10:00am.
We had a special treat in the evening. We got to meet the twins! (Landlord's Son/Daugther in-law)

They are so small! They were 2500g each at birth and are growing steadily. But they are no match for our “huge” (and much older) granddaughters.

It was a pleasure to give them the clothes and quilts and toys our girls organised.

Tuesday 10th November, 2026.

Temple Day : Lolei, Preah Go and Prasat Trapeang Kaek

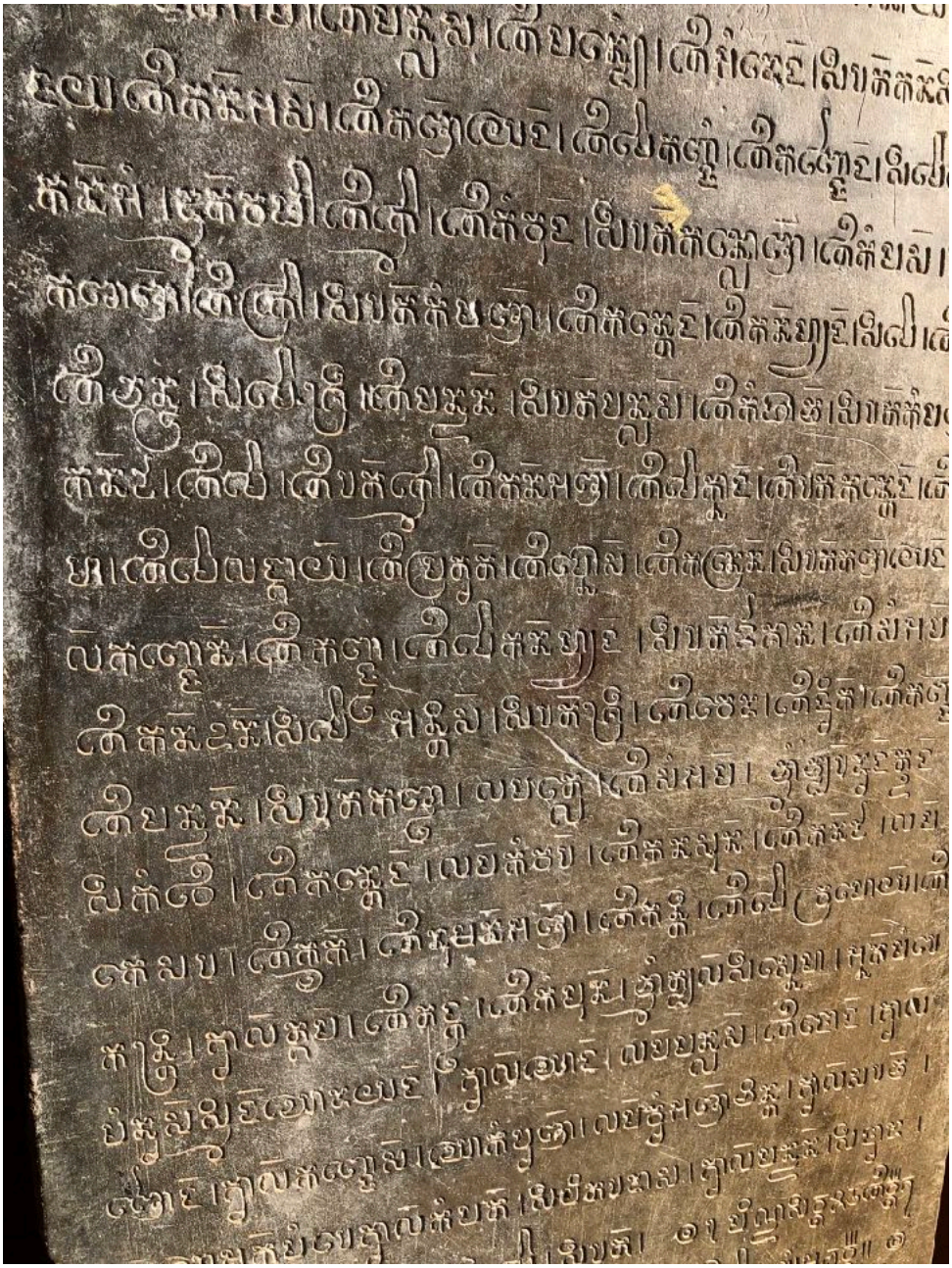


Lolei is part of the Roluos group of temples.

Above is the new building (a dining hall) for the active pagoda (we chatted with the monk).



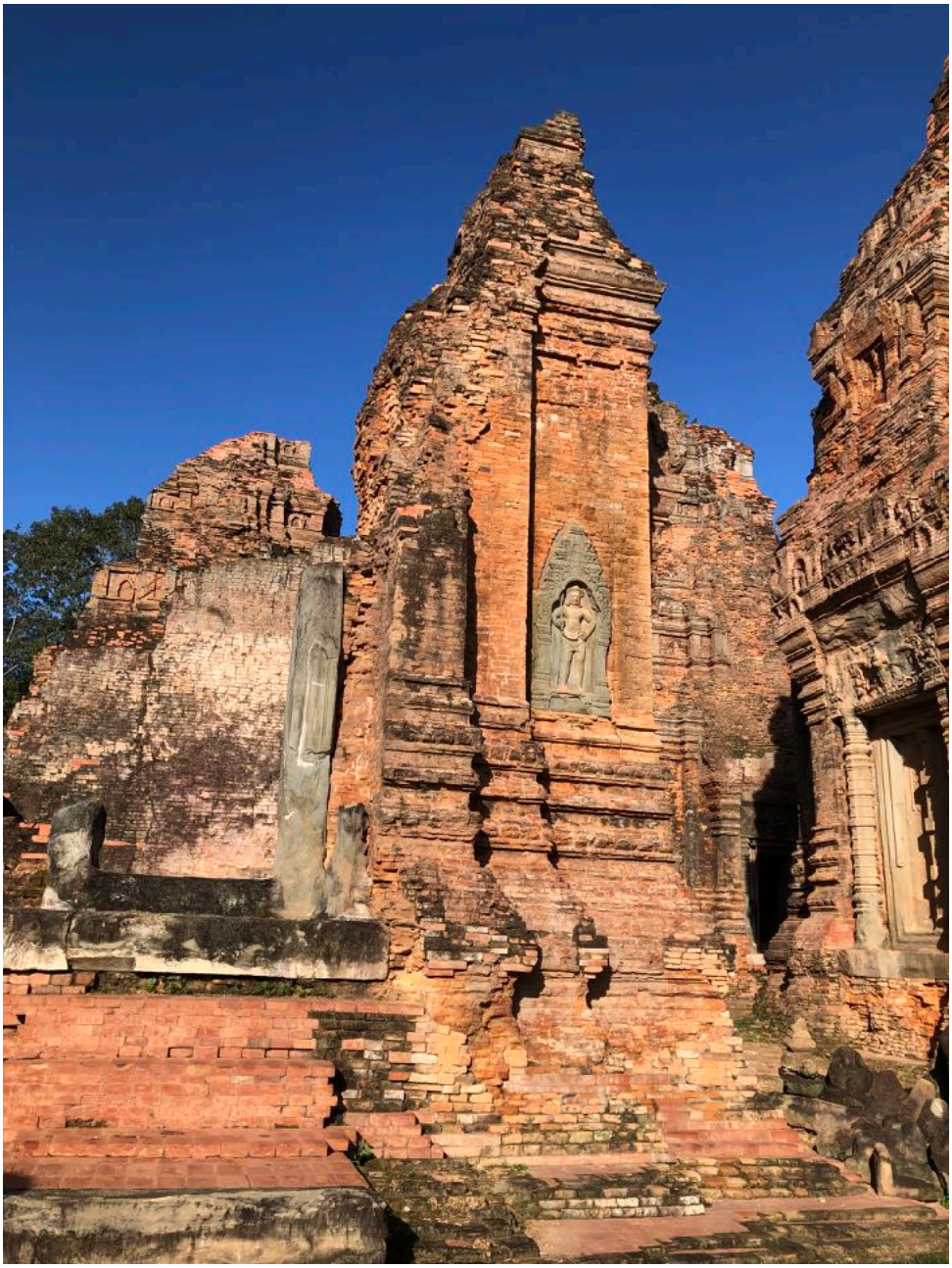
Lolei was built in the late 9th century. We can tell it is “old” because it is made of bricks.



A lot of information about the temple is recorded in these steles, part of the doorways to the towers. I can recognise some of the letters. Scholars can read them (it is Khmer, just written a little differently).



Lolei has four towers on a raised platform.



The carvings of the warriors (and Devapalas) are “stuck” onto the temple wall (set into recesses in the brickwork).

We rode on to Preah Ko Temple.



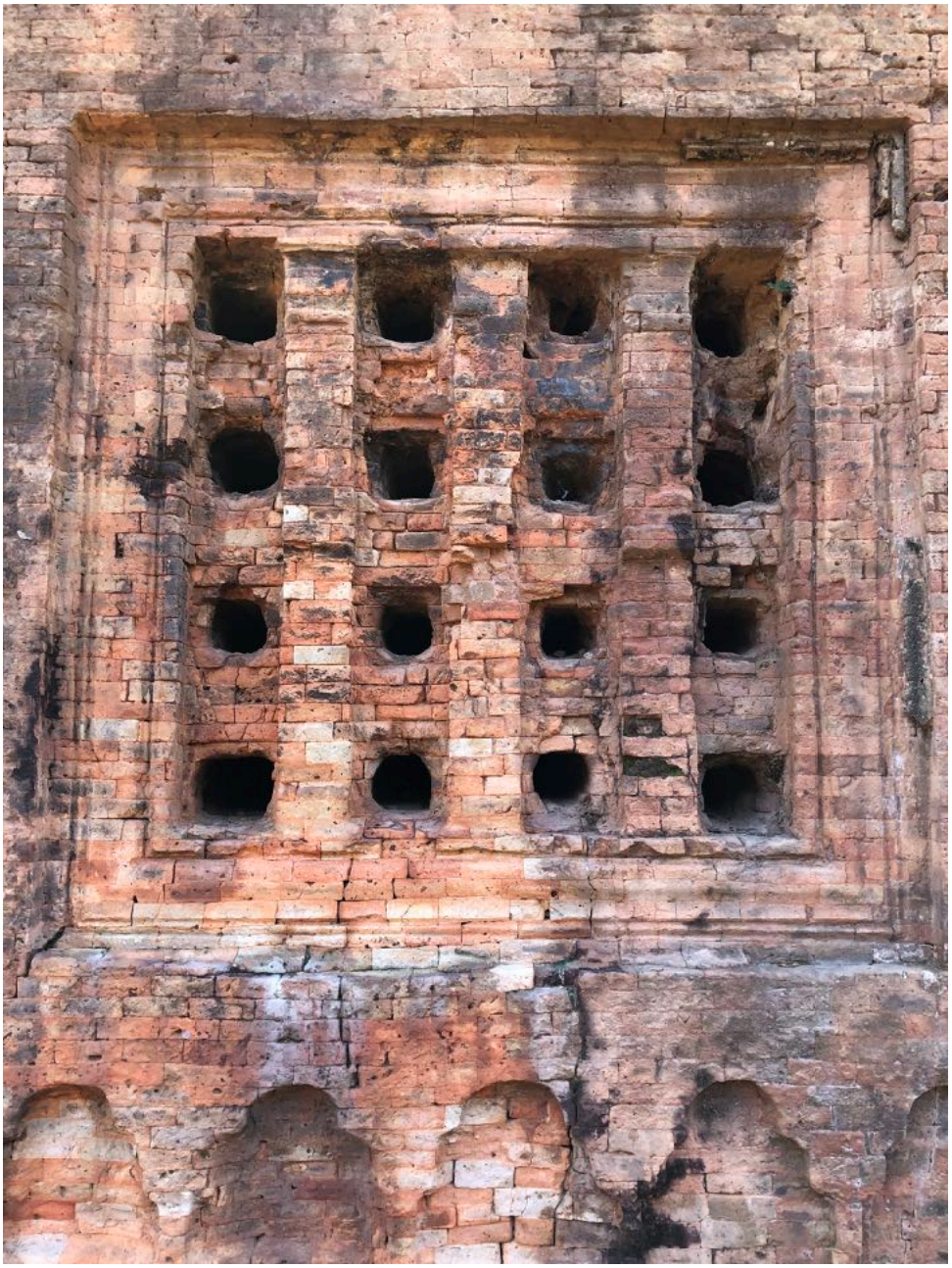


Again, this temple has the towers on a raised platform.

There are some remains of the outer buildings.



The building on the left was a crematorium.



Holes in the sides of the building show it was a crematorium.



An inspector at one of the (modern) buildings a little further along the road.



This is the Bakong temple. It is a big temple. The grounds are beautiful. There is a working pagoda here too.
It deserves a whole morning, so we will come back another day.



A smaller temple lies next to one of the back roads leading back into Siem Reap. It is Prasat Trapeang Kaek. “Trapeang” refers to a water reservoir.



This is the road and our bike.



“Council” workers (from the Sangkat) have been pulling down advertising signs along the roads (President Macron is coming to open the West Mebon Temple and they are tidying up the streets).



Back on the City Ring Road (around Siem Reap) we came across this truck transporting telegraph poles.



The Roluos Group of temples is about 20km from home.

The City Ring Road takes us back to the river, and then it is a short ride back to our apartment.